(c) the manner in which Government propose to deal with the problem alongwith Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) As per information available, no demand for amendment in the Constitution for imposing ban on conversion in the country has been received from the Vishwa Hindu Parishad.

(c) According to Article 25(1) of the Constitution of India, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion subject to public order, morality and health. Since 'Public Order' is listed as Item No. 1 of List II State List of 7th Schedule of the Constitution, the Law & Order matter relating to conversions are to be taken care of by the respective State Governments.

Closing down of the GLDC and GHC

2985. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocted to the various corporation for the economic upliftment of SCs and STs, other backward classes and minorities.

(b) whether Government are aware of the decision of the Gujarat Government of closing down the Gujarat Leather Development Corporation and Gujarat Handloom Corporation;

(c) whether the revival of the said corporations is helpful for the rural population and SCs and STs in particular;

(d) if so, whether Government contemplate to revive the same; and

(e) the details of strategy being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The National and State level Corporations set up for economic upliftment of SCs, and STs, other backward classes and minorities have been provided funds as indicated below (up to March, 2001):—

(Rs. In crore)

SIN	Name of the Corporation	Amount Provided
1.	National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation	411.00
2.	National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation	56.755
3.	National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation	390.40
4.	National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation	202.00
5.	State level Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporations	539.72

(b) to (e) Government of Gujarat has informed that there is no decision for closing down the Gujarat State Leather Development Corporation and Gujarat State Handloom Corporation. However, Government of Gujarat has decided to merge the Gujarat State Leather Development Corporation with Gujarat Rural Industries Marketing Corporation and Gujarat State Handloom Development Corporation with Gujarat state Handicrafts Development Corporation for making the Corporations more viable, which will help the rural population and SCs and STs in particular.

Merger of the Corporations will solve overlapping of activities, reduce expenditure, make marketing outlets of one Corporation available to other Corporations without any additional expenditure and utilization of available manpower optimally.

Amendment in Dargah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1955

2986. SHRIAIMADUDDINAHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleasd to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Dargah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1955;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) A proposal for amendment of the Dargah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1955 is under